

subdued in tone, of those effects for which La Chaise de Paris is so famous. Medallions of great unity in design are introduced; these represent the hours, the months, and zodiacal signs. The surfaces are dark, and give an indication of Pompeian treatment, without losing style. The cave is divided into compartments: these are filled with allegorical paintings, and some good imitations of sculpture. Thus we have the cardinal virtues, Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, and Temperance, in the angles; the centre compartments on the three sides are filled with figures of Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture, and the remainder with the Muses, "the ever-tuneful nine."

There is a strong German feeling about the relief of the cornice, and instead of the everlasting honeysuckle and lotus, we have arrangements of the poppy and convolvulus, and an original treatment is adopted in dropping portions of the ornament over the moulding of the fascia, and some distance upon it, thus destroying the usual dead line with a good effect. As a whole the colouring is nicely balanced and harmonious in effect. The cheerful aspect of a room for reflection is well preserved, and there is warmth without darkness of tone. The whole has been carried out by Mr. Froggott, of Manchester, Mr. George Jackson designing the ornaments, and executing all the relief, whilst the allegorical paintings, cameos, &c., have been executed by Mr. Horner, of London. There is one novelty which deserves notice, which is the dial of the clock, as also that of a wind dial. The ordinary white face and black hoop of figures has been abolished, and an arrangement of lilies springing from a centre introduced, with the stem arranged and tipped with gold, to indicate the hours.

TAX ON VENTILATION. DISTRICT SURVEYORS' FEES.

I HAVE just learned, to my great surprise, for the first time, that the Legislature has taxed any endeavour to obtain fresh air. The Blackheath district surveyor has just made a claim of *twenty-five shillings* as his fee for the insertion of three of Dr. Arnott's ventilators, by one of which a close, unhealthy workshop has been rendered comfortable and wholesome. Now, I do not for one moment assert that the advantages derived from them are not worth all the money to those who have it; but it must be remembered, Mr. Editor, that a poor man, who can with difficulty muster the price of a ventilator, will hesitate very long before he pays twice its cost to any man to obtrude himself in his house to supervise its fixing, which we all know to be a farce. What the law may be I do not know; but I have seen Dr. Arnott himself and two of the largest manufacturers, and they assure me that even the most anxious of the surveyors in their districts have never yet condescended to make such a claim. To talk of ventilation is absurd, if you cannot make a hole of 5 inches by 9 inches without half-a-guinea fee to this gentleman, who kindly troubles us with his presence to do nothing.

As Dr. Arnott observed, it is not a question of fee or no fee, but of ventilation or no ventilation: if it be legal, what a glorious triumph it will be for death, pestilence, and fever.

They have lately, one can fancy, looked more ghastly than usual, as hook after book was published, and lecture followed lecture, advocating sanitary improvements; but now (if this be true), let them revel freely once more in their congenial home, the close sickly dwellings of the poor. They are sanctioned by Act of Parliament,—they are under the peculiar protection of Mr. Badger, and such other of his colleagues as have been or may be induced, by love of fees, to follow his example.

Mr. Chadwick may, in the next editions of his fever maps, extend and deepen the shadows of devoted districts, not according to the drainage and sewerage, but the humanity or selfishness of the district surveyor: let the white unsullied purity of the paper represent the practical Christian principle of the one,—and dark, solemn, mournful tints the greediness of the other.

Pray, Mr. Editor, do tell us how the law stands, that we may either at once legally contest the claim, if possible, or prepare to agitate

for the removal of a restriction so absurd, impolitic, and unchristian.

Blackheath.

WM. VOLLER.

* * * We are disposed to consider the demand illegal,—although we know what may be said in support of a contrary opinion. The official referees, we feel confident, judging from their adjudication in other matters, would not sanction it.

LANDING PIERS AND TIMBER BRIDGES. INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

On the 15th instant—Mr. William Cubitt, president, in the chair—the paper read was "An Account of the Blackfriars Landing-pier," by Mr. F. Lawrence. The pier commences on the Middlesex side of the river, to the east of Blackfriars-bridge, at Chatham-place, and continues parallel to the bridge, and at a distance of 40 feet from it, for a length of 185 feet. The body of the pier (exclusive of the head) is supported on four piers, two of which consist of a single row, and two of a double row of piling, forming three spans of 50 feet each, and having about 8 feet headway under them at high-water. The floating barge, or dummy, on which the passengers land, is 100 long and 25 feet wide, rising and falling with the tide, in grooves at each end, formed by piles and protected by dolphins. The total cost was about 4,000*l*.

The next paper read was a "Description of a timber bridge erected over the river Ouse, on the line of the Lynn and Ely Railway," by Mr. J. S. Valentine. The total length of this bridge was 450 feet, divided into eleven bays, ten of 30 feet span each, and one over the river of 120 feet span on the square, and 121 feet 6 inches on the skew. This river-opening consisted of three laminated timber bows, resting upon stone piers, the material for which was procured from the new Leeds quarries. The dimensions of the bows were—length of chord, 121 feet 6 inches; versed sine, 14 feet 2 inches; and their depth 3 feet 8 inches; the width of the outer bows was 2 feet 2 inches, that of the centre bow 2 feet 9 inches. They were formed of fifteen layers of 3-inch deals, abutting upon a cast-iron plate, bolted to the tie-beams, which consisted of two whole timbers scarfed and bolted together. Each tie-beam was suspended from the bows by thirteen wrought iron rods, 2 inches in diameter, and between these diagonal struts were fitted. Transverse joists, notched on to the tie-beams, extended across the whole width of the bridge, and on these the rail bearers were laid, the intervening spaces being filled with 3-inch deals, laid longitudinally. The total cost of the superstructure was about 3,744*l*.

RESTORATION OF POWICK CHURCH, WORCESTERSHIRE.

POWICK CHURCH, three miles from Worcester, has for some time past been under the process of restoration. The building consists of chancel, nave, with aisles, north and south transepts, and western tower.

The western gallery has been removed, and the fine tower arch thus opened to the church. The flat plaster ceilings to nave and chancel have also been taken down; and the original open timber roofs above have been restored: the effect of the nave roof is excellent; there are no principals, all the rafters have collars and braces, forming in all seven cuts. That to the chancel is not so good, being disfigured by ugly tie-beams. It is to be hoped that the transept roofs (which are similar to that in the nave) will also be brought to light by the removal of the plaster. The whole of the interior of this church has been thoroughly deprived of its whitewash, and every joint in the masonry has been pointed with bright red mortar; but the stonework being in random courses, the effect is not much to be admired.

The nave and aisles were fitted up with open benches previous to the present restoration; they have been slightly improved, and stalls added to the chancel. This portion of the building was not complete when we were there. A new chancel arch has been erected. The rood-screen will remain; and screens have been put up between the transepts and nave, also at east end of north and south aisles.

The north transept will not be seated; the south one will have a third of its area covered with children's seats,—the organ, with screen-work on each side dividing them from the remainder of the transept, which will be used as a vestry,—an objectionable arrangement, except as a temporary measure. The external doorway to it has been made in the east wall. We may mention, that so far as we remember there is no original doorway in an eastern wall in any old church, cathedral, or abbey. The pulpit of stone has been erected west of the transept arch on the south side; all those, therefore, who will be behind the worthy vicar during his sermon, will hear but little.

The work has been carried out under the superintendence of Mr. Clacy, architect, of Reading.

The pulpit and reading-desk want general effect. It is better to leave work plain than to cover it with enrichment which is without light and shade, and therefore invisible at a short distance. Before carrying, it should be remembered that it is necessary to have some good thick stuff to work upon.

The contractor was Mr. Bullock, of Worcester.

Miscellaneous.

EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS.—The Royal Commissioners, at their first meeting on the 11th, were of opinion that the contract with Messrs. Munday, which had enabled the proposal to be brought to its present state, and had guaranteed the carrying into effect of the proposed exhibition, was of a strictly reasonable—and, indeed, of a very liberal—character; but, in accordance with what appeared to be the wishes of the public, they decided to give notice of its termination, and to place the whole undertaking upon the basis of a general subscription. A wag might say, "*Sic transit gloria Munday*." We quite agree, however, in the opinion that the contract was a very liberal one on the part of Messrs. Munday. Notwithstanding the snub given to architecture by the omission of the President of the Institute, it is to be hoped there will be a *distinct compartment* in the building for matters architectural and relating to building; and it is to be hoped that the art will be well represented on the occasion: it may very well be so, there being so many curious modern appliances calculated to attract attention, which may be by such means rendered more known and available. Such a collection, of itself, we long ago suggested. As to the general management we continue to receive numerous letters, and may perhaps find an opportunity to consider them. The Council of the Society of Antiquaries, we understand, have refused to concur in the proposed exhibition of ancient art by the Society of Arts.

SALFORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.—The formal opening of this important prototype of, we hope, a host of successors, took place on Wednesday week, when the whole, comprising already upwards of 5,300 volumes, several thousands of specimens in natural history and works of art, &c., was handed over by the committee to the corporation for the free use of the public of Salford for ever. At the meeting Mr. Brotherton, M.P., took the chair, and after the Dean of Manchester had expressed his approval of its objects, the chairman addressed the meeting, and explained the origin and designs of the institution, and the varied advantages which it would afford to the working classes for their improvement and recreation. The library is to be open every day and evening, and the receipt of a large number of duplicate copies of standard works has decided the trustees to put the finishing stroke to the value of the institution—by making it a lending library. The reading-room is provided with a series of maps. A portrait of Mr. Brotherton, who may be said to have been its founder, has been placed in the hall of the mansion, in Peel's Park, where this exemplary institution has been established. Besides the chairman, various speakers addressed the opening meeting, among whom were the Mayor of Manchester with several aldermen; and in the evening a tea party was held in honour of the morning's proceedings, and various appropriate resolutions passed.